

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06283 241704Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W  
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R 241544Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1483  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6283

USEEC AND AMEMBASSY

ROME PLEASE PASS TO PETER SARROS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, SP, VT  
SUBJECT: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS: SPANISH-VATICAN ACCORD

REF: MADRID 6529 (1976)

1. AT ABOUT THE MIDWAY POINT IN THE TWO-YEAR TIME LIMIT  
SET FOR THE SERIES OF ACCORDS WHICH WILL FURTHER MODIFY  
THE 1953 CONCORDAT (REFTEL), THE TEMPO OF CHURCH-STATE  
CONSULTATIONS HAS PICKED UP IN ANTICIPATION OF PRIME  
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MINISTER SUAREZ' ANNOUNCED MEETING WITH THE POPE ON  
SEPTEMBER 2 (MADRID 6304). PAPAL NUNCIO MSGR. DADAGLIO  
RECENTLY MET TWICE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA IN SAN  
SEBASTIAN TO DISCUSS THE COMING VATICAN MEETING. SUBSEQUENTLY,  
OREJA TOLD THE PRESS THAT SUAREZ WOULD NOT BE SIGNING ANY  
ACCORD AT THIS TIME AND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S TALK  
WITH THE POPE WOULD COVER "GENERAL THEMES."

2. ON AUGUST 23, DADAGLIO ENTERTAINED FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA, JUSTICE MINISTER LAVILLA, AND EDUCATION AND SCIENCE MINISTER CAVERO - THE "KEY" MINISTERS WITH RESPECT TO CONCORDAT NEGOTIATIONS - AT A WORKING LUNCHEON CHARACTERIZED AS "VERY POSITIVE" WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS. QUOTING WELL-INFORMED SOURCES, CONSERVATIVE "ABC" REPORTED AUGUST 24 THAT THE MEETING HAD LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR A RENEWAL OF HE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED CONCORDAT NEGOTIATIONS, AND HAD TOUCHED UPON SUCH THEMES AS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO THE ARMED FORCES, STATE AID TO PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS, AND THE CIVIL VERSUS CHURCH MARRIAGE ISSUE.

3. MSGR DADGLIO COMMENTED TO EMBASSY AUGUST 24 THAT HE WAS WELL-SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS OF CONCORDAT NEGOTIATIONS. THE VARIOUS "MIXED COMMITTEES" (SEPARATELY TREATING SUCH ASPECTS AS A) JUDICIAL MATTERS, B) ECONOMIC, TAXATION AND PATRIMONIAL MATTERS, C) RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, D) EDUCATION AND CULTURAL MATTERS, AND E) RELIGIOUS MATTERS IN THE ARMED FORCES - SEE REFTEL) HAD DONE THEIR WORK WELL AND THE COORDINATING COMMISSION WAS NOW CHARGED WITH MONITORING THE DRAFTING OF THE SPECIFIC ACCORDS DADGLIO IDENTIFIED CHURCH EDUCATION AND "FAMILY ISSUES" (I.E. MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE ISSUES) AS AMONG THE MOST SENSITIVE, AND NOTED THAT THE CONCORDAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE SURE TO BE DEBATED  
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IN THE NEW CORTES. GIVEN THE SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON BOTH SIDES TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE "NEW" AND "REAL" POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN SPAIN TODAY, THE PAPAL NUNCIO WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT ANY PROBLEMS COULD BE OVERCOME.

4. COMMENT: THE CURRENT STRONG TREND TOWARD MORE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE WILL SURELY BE REFLECTED IN ANY CORTES DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS OF THE 1953 CONCORDAT. OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, BOTH THE PSOE AND PCE CAN BE EXPECTED TO VOICE STRONG OPINIONS ON SUCH POLITICALLY DELICATE ISSUES AT THE CONFESSIONALITY OF THE STATE, CHURCH EDUCATION, AND THE MATTER OF DIVORCE. AS OF THIS WRITING, MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE OREJA-IMPOSED DEADLINE OF JULY 1978 WILL BE MET. STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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